

Marijuana Policy Panel

Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 22 – City Hall, Room 370 – 5:30 to 6:40p.m.

Present: Members - *Holden, Mochizuki, Stark*
 Guests - *Captain Steven Brown, Lieutenant William Edwards*

Review new data

Stark presented a number of documents that the Committee could use to observe local and national trends, changes, and patterns in drug use. The data presented, along with data that the Committee will continue to gather, may then be used to assist measuring SMC 12A.20.060's affects on public health and safety. They were:

1. Marijuana treatment admissions as reported to TARGET for the periods of 1/1/2003 to 6/30/2003 and 1/1/2004 to 6/30/2004. The data includes admissions in Seattle and totals for Washington State.
2. Duplicated youth admissions to publicly funded chemical dependency treatment by primary substance use: alcohol, marijuana, amphetamines and methamphetamines, and cocaine from 1991 to 2002, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Charted comparisons of 30-day marijuana use from Washington's Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) vs. the National Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF) for grades 8, 10 and 12, 1990 to 2002. Charted comparison of perception of harm of occasional marijuana use vs. 30-day marijuana use (MTF), 1975 to 2002.
3. Excerpted portions of Washington State's HYS, released January 2004, with data regarding: percent of students attending school drunk or high; average age of first use of alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes; 30-day prevalence of use of various drugs grades 6, 8, and 10; trends of marijuana use by grade; trends of perception of marijuana risk vs. marijuana use, students grade 8.
4. Excerpts from Seattle Public Schools Safe Schools/Healthy Students Project report, issued August 2004, including Substance use from 2002 and 2004 among students grade 6, 8, 10 and 12; tables from 2002 and 2004 measuring ever used, 30-day use, and heavy use for grades 6, 8, 10 and 12.
5. National map with states shaded to display prevalence of, a) past month use of marijuana ages 12 and older, and, b) past month use of marijuana ages 12 to 17. Source: 1999 National Household Survey on drug Abuse
6. *Results From the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings* (Full text, 254 pages), and *Overview of Findings From the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* (Full text, 41 pages). Source: Department of Health and Human Services, substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
7. State estimates of drug abuse. Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies 1999 National Survey on Drug Abuse. Online at:
<http://www.health.org/govstudy/bkd376/chapter3.aspx>
8. *Monitoring the Future, National Survey Results on Drug Use 1975-2003, Volume II, College Students & Adults ages 19-45, 2003* (Full text, 267 pages). Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Stark suggested that relevant data from each of the sources be converted into charts, graphs, tables and other formats that would make the information more easily understood and applied to the Committee's work.

Holden volunteered to prepare sample charts for the Committee to review. In order to develop the sample charts, Holden will have possession of these documents until further notice.

Consider other data to gather

The Committee considered other large U.S. cities to compare Seattle's marijuana use, in order to determine if SMC 12A.20.060 has differently affected Seattle's marijuana use and abuse patterns. Holden presented 1990 census data that showed comparable urban areas based upon population. The committee determined that gauging cities based solely on population of their urbanized area was an inadequate method of comparing drug use. Other characteristics sought in a control city were suggested, including: racial/ethnic breakdown, jail capacity and crowding, and ratio of sworn officers to population.

The committee discussed other cities in Washington State that could act as control subjects, specifically Tacoma and Spokane, being the second and third largest cities in the state. Stark mentioned that Spokane could be a good candidate because the city was studied under a program called Alcohol and Drug abuse Monitoring (ADAM).

Outside Participation

The Committee discussed the need to tabulate the data that will be gathered. Stark suggested that departments and students at the University of Washington would make ideal candidates due to their expertise and objective viewpoint. Holden agreed to discuss the possibility of opening internships with students working under Roger Roffman, Professor, Director, Innovative Programs Research Group, which studies marijuana use and abuse at the UW. Stark suggested following up with Dennis Donovan, Director of the UW's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, in the event that Mr. Roffman was unable to assist the project.

Public Comment

Philip Mocek – Could the Office of national Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) study data as well?

Next Steps

The Committee will convene at the next full meeting of the Panel, scheduled Monday, December 13, and report on the Committee's progress.